

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services this week announced they have processed the funds secured earlier this year by Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) for the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention. The program will receive a check for \$430,348.

"Silver Star is our long-term solution to the gang problems on the Central Coast. We must have firm enforcement to keep our communities safe now, but unless we pair that with serious prevention efforts we will never be tackling the root of the problem," Rep. Farr said. "Like any education or health initiative, we have to set children on the right path at an early age. Silver Star aims to do just that through all of its programs and dedicated staff. They do a great job and are worthy of praise."

Silver Star, run by the Monterey Probation Department, provides counseling, educational and job preparation services to more than 3,000 minors annually. The program was created as a "one stop shop" for gang involvement, substance abuse, truancy, employment and family conflict.

"Due to the difficult fiscal times we are facing, this funding is vital to continue the services for our youth and families," said Manuel Real, chief probation officer of Monterey County. "We owe a debt of gratitude to Congressman Farr for his continuing support of these critical programs."

Rep. Farr has secured nearly \$1.5 million since 2005 for the program, and has requested an additional \$350,000 for next year.

"Silver Star is exactly the kind of local project that federal dollars should support," Rep. Farr said. "I visited their facilities in January and spoke with the kids who are being helped by the programs, and it was a very touching time. I will continue to support Silver Star. It's one of the few bright lights in our battle against gang violence."

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